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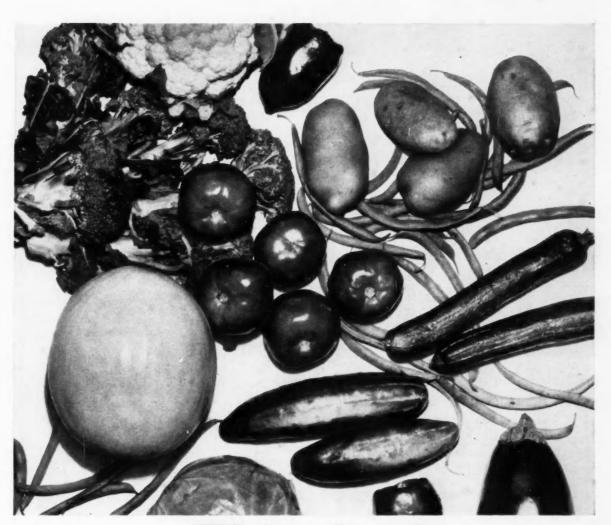


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Cucumbers Meions Squash	Aphids	Up to 14 days prior to harvest
Eggplants, Peppers	Aphids	Up to 7 days prior to harvest
Potatoes	Flea beetle, Colorado potato beetle, leafhoppers, aphids, southern armyworm, green stink bug, potato tuberworm, leaf-footed plant bug	
Tomatoes	Aphids, whitefly	Up to 7 days prior to harvest

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Phelps Dodge

NEW YORK 22, NEW YORK



Reg. U.S. Pat. Off. Commercial Vegetable Grower Market Growers Journal

VOL. 8

MAY, 1960

Cover photograph by J. C. Allen & San shows spring scene in celery field.

#### FEATURES

	r, Quicker Coverage with Air-blast g	
	Plant Food to Your Crop	
Double Yo By S. K. K	ur Cucumber Yield!	
	ry Paper Mulch	
Plant Gro By Ray Sh	wer's Corner	
Greenhouse Crops	California Tour  By Fred K. Buscher	40
Melons	Nematode Control	32
Tomatoes	Tips on Growing Fireball  By Philip A. Minges and Clark Nicklow	26
	DEPARTMENTS	
Letters to the Editor.	6 As It Looks to Me	22

Letters to the Editor 6	As It Looks to Me 22
Markets Trends and Forecasts 7	New for You 42
State News14	Editorials46
You be the Expert14	Coming Next Month46

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#### **LETTERS** TO THE EDITOR

#### Tomato Bargaining Defeat

Dear Editor

I would like to say a word about your article in the February issue on the tomato bargaining defeat. In my mind there is only one thing for growers to agree and to act on, not only in regard to tomatoes but also many other crops. That is to drastically reduce their acreage and try to avoid a surplus. These tomato growers lost money on their crop and let the canners get another surplus of cheap tomatoes ahead for next year. I feel they would have been better off if they hadn't raised any tomatoes last season. Next season the crop would be short, and they could make up for lost time.

Growers will never make money by having a surplus of fruit or vegetables which they have to sell quickly or lose. Growers here did the same thing with sweet corn last season. They shipped corn, five dozen to the crate, to Boston and New York and some got a return of 20 cents a box after expenses. They plowed under many acres. I don't call this good farming. Southwick, Mass. Harold Mason

#### Plant Grower's Corner

Dear Editor:

We just wanted to write to let you know how much we enjoy reading your "Plant Grower's Corner." We always did look for-ward to getting American Vegetable GROWER, but your new series seems to be just for us. We are comparative newcomers in the vegetable growing field and are planning to build a greenhouse this spring to grow vegetable plants. So you see, almost anything that you write about in this column will be helpful and of interest to us. Please keep these articles coming as we believe that there are many people who feel the same as we do.

Mr. & Mrs. William Manthey Detroit, Mich.

#### CALENDAR OF COMING MEETINGS AND EXHIBITS

May 12—Greenhouse Vegetable Day, Ohio Agricultural Experiment Station, Wooster.

May 24-25—National Produce Executives' Conference, Ambassador East Hotel, Chicago, Ill.

May 29-June 4—Caribbean Region American Society for Horticultural Science annual meet-ing, Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico.—E. H. Casseres, Sec'y-Treas., Londres 40, Mexico 6, D. F.

June 22-24—Washington Potato Industry annual summer meeting, Holiday Motel, Yakima. Washington Potato and Onion Growers & Shippers Association, 702 Brown Ave., Yakima.

Aug. 2-3—Ohio Pesticide Institute, Ohio Agri-cultural Experiment Station, Wooster.

Aug. 14-18—South Carolina Farm and Home Week, Clemson College, Clemson.—Thomas W. Morgan, Chairman, Clemson College Extension Service, Clemson.

Sept. 11-14—Produce Packaging Association annual convention and exposition, Americana Hotel, Miami Beach, Fla.—Robert L. Carey, Exec. Sec'y, P. O. Box 29, Newark, Del.

Sept. 27-29—Florida Fruit & Vegetable Association annual convention, Hotel Fontainebleau, Miami Beach.—J. Abney Cox, General Convention Chairman, Princeton.
Oct. 19-26—Western Growers Association annual meeting, Riviera Hotel, Las Vegas, Nev.

Nov. 28-Dec. I—Vegetable Growers Association of America 52nd annual convention, Milwaukee Auditorium-Arena (Hotel Schroeder, headquarters), Milwaukee, Wis.—Robert M. Frederick, Exec.-Sec'y, 528 Mills Bldg., 17th & Pennsylvania Ave., N.W., Washington 6, D.C.

### MARKETS...

#### TRENDS AND FORECASTS

#### Special Report

AMERICAN VEGETABLE GROWER, MAY, 1960

INTEGRATION IS INCREASING IN AGRICULTURE. Integration, or contract farming in canning crops, is not new to vegetable growers. However, contracting for fresh vegetables is new and is increasing in importance. The important things for growers to watch in any integration arrangement are: To what extent are decisions made for the grower, and what, if any, are the tie-in arrangements for supplies, etc., used in his production program.

ONION SITUATION SLIGHTLY IMPROVED. But better prices came too late to benefit many storage area growers. The big problem has been overproduction. Oversupply continues from early crop areas. Hybrids and other improved practices have led to high per-acre yields. The number of total acres used for growing onions must be cut so that production can be held in line with demand.

GOOD OR BAD POTATO YEAR COMING UP? It depends. Growers themselves will largely determine this. Present indications don't look good. Intentions-to-plant in the late summer and fall states are 90,000 acres more than USDA suggestions. This could lead to a 2% increase over 1959 production. Past history shows that growers get highest total returns from the smallest national crops and the lowest returns in the biggest production seasons.

<u>DELAYED PLANTING OF EARLY VEGETABLES</u> has occurred in most areas. As a result, early production of many fresh vegetables will be reduced. Less availability of fresh produce may help reduce stocks of processed vegetables.

VEGETABLE CONSUMPTION HAS CHANGED. The average consumer is now using 12% less fresh vegetables and over 50% more in the canned and frozen form compared to 20 years ago. A recent Agricultural Marketing Service study indicates decreases in per capita demand for fresh asparagus, limas, peas, snap beans, tomatoes, cabbage, and spinach. Sweet corn and cucumbers have enjoyed an increase in popularity in the fresh form. Broccoli, snap beans, and tomatoes are now enjoying greater popularity in the processed form.

\*PICK-IT-YOURSELF" STRAWBERRY MARKETING. More growers are using this approach to their harvesting and marketing problem. This plan can be advantageous to growers, consumers, and even retailers. Stores usually carry berries as loss-leaders anyway.

ARE U.S. CANNERS LOOKING TO FOREIGN COUNTRIES FOR GROWING AND PROCESSING THEIR PRODUCTS? Indications are that this might be so. A large national food canner has just granted \$25,000 to a leading midwestern university to study climate and related factors concerned with selection of farming areas abroad. Main interest is in South American areas adapted to tomatoes, peas, sweet corn, beans, and tropical fruit.

POTATO CONSUMPTION DECLINE IS LEVELING OFF. The downward trend in per capita potato consumption has been about halted now by increased processing, better quality control, washing, and better merchandising methods. But the consumption rate for <a href="mailto:sweetpotatoes">sweetpotatoes</a> per person is well below prewar levels and appears to be continuing downward.

FALL POTATO CONTRACTS LOOK ATTRACTIVE. With an expected increase in acreage and lower expected prices next fall, contract prices of around \$2 per hundred for U.S. No. 1 look good. If contracts are available in your area, perhaps you should consider signing up.

ONION FUTURES TRADING OFFICIALLY DEAD. The time period for appeal on the law banning futures trading in onions has expired. Rumor is that grower groups will tackle potatoes next.

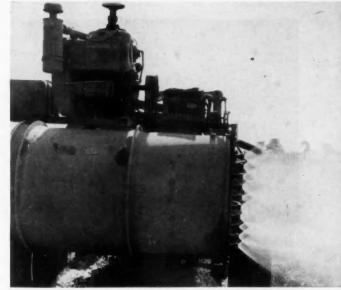
# HOW TO AVOID RESIDUE PROBLEMS

With malathion you can spray most fruits up to 72 hours from harvest without exceeding residue limits established by law



MALATHION INSECTICIDES

# Vegetable Grower



One-way mist blower. Campbell Soup Company uses concentrate sprays for Pest control in major production areas and on numerous vegetable crops.

# Less Water, Quicker Coverage with AIR-BLAST SPRAYING

Campbell Soup Company and other growers are using 75% less water, cutting labor in half with mist spraying

By W. C. HANDWERK

Assistant Director of Agriculture Campbell Soup Company, Camden, N. J.

OUR initial interest in concentrate mist or air-blast spraying dates back to 1947 when a Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, vegetable grower sprayed a portion of his tomato field with an orchard-type concentrate mist sprayer and found its pest control performance equal to conventional spraying.

Since 1947 we have used concentrate mist spraying on tomatoes and carrots in all of the major production areas of Illinois, Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Maryland. In 1958 we had experience on both carrots and tomatoes in the

Platte River Valley of Nebraska, as well as on tomato plant-growing operations in southern Georgia. In 1959 we used it on 12 different vegetable crops in the Red River Valley of northern Texas.

Concentrate mist spraying refers to a procedure whereby a 4X (four times the normal quantity of fungicide per gallon of water) concentration of material is pumped under high pressure (300 to 400 pounds per square inch) through nozzles or jets into an airstream delivering up to 40,000 cubic feet of air a minute at 90 m.p.h.

Concentrate gives better spray deposit pattern than dilute. Spray pattern at left in this unretouched photo of a Myers two-way is in shadow at machine but is exactly as shown at right.

at the point of delivery. This material is applied at the rate of 38 to 40 gallons per acre.

Conventional spraying refers to the application of a dilute solution of fungicide at high pressure (300 to 400 p.s.i.) by means of a boom sprayer equipped with three to six nozzles per row. In this case, 150 gallons per acre are applied.

During the past 12 years row crop type applicators having capacities of up to 40,000 cubic feet per minute, as well as blower attachments to replace the boom on conventional sprayers, have been developed. These newer machines are designed to take better advantage of aerodynamics.

(Continued on page 41)





Photo courtesy J. M. Huffington, Continental Can Co., Inc.

Field seeding of tomatoes. High phosphorus fertilizer placed below seed gives plants good start.

# Let's Talk about APPLYING PLANT FOOD to YOUR CROP

By M. T. VITTUM and N. H. PECK

New York State Agricultural Experiment Station, Geneva

T is well known and has been pointed out many times that all crops require certain specific chemical elements such as nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, calcium, magnesium, etc. They also require a large amount of water which is necessary to transport these mineral nutrients from the soil through the absorbing hairs on the roots up through the stems of the plants and out through the branches to the leaves where some of it is used in photosynthesis. The remainder, and by far the major portion, is evaporated into the air.

Sunlight is another very essential factor in the growth of any plant, for without it no photosynthesis would occur and the small factories in each green leaf would be unable to convert carbon dioxide from the air and water from the soil into the organic compounds which are used in building up sugars, starches, other carbohydrates, and proteins in the plant.

Although all of the physiological processes involved in plant growth are essential, the function of the root system is emphasized here. As mentioned above, the root hairs are the mechanism through which growing

plants absorb water and mineral elements from the soil.

It is important to realize that these root hairs are just like humans in that they cannot live without oxygen. Roots require oxygen for the metabolism which is involved in active uptake of nutrients. In heavy and poorly drained soils, root systems are very shallow, for their oxygen must come from the atmosphere and atmospheric oxygen will not penetrate very deeply into a heavy, wet soil. Hence the standard recommendation of well-drained soils for vegetable crops.

Assuming that the vegetable grower has a productive and well-drained soil, that he has planted an adequate population of an adapted variety or hybrid, that he has irrigated to supply water throughout the life of the crop, and that he has controlled weeds, insects, nematodes, diseases, etc., the limiting factor in the growth of his crop becomes an adequate, uninterrupted supply of plant nutrients to the roots

This brings us to the subject of fertilizers, and the three questions which are always raised: What kind (what ratio of N to P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> to K<sub>2</sub>O),

In April, 1959 we published an article entitled Where You Place Fertilizer Will Govern Crop Size and Quality. Dr. Frank App of Seabrook Farming Corporation, Seabrook, N.J., believes this method of fertilizing is applicable primarily to field crops. Dr. App explained his views more fully in our March issue in the article entitled Feed Your Crop According to Its Needs.

Now Drs. M. T. Vittum and N. H. Peck of New York State Agricultural Experiment Station present their thinking on why fertilizer placement is important for vegetable producers and the role of cover crops.—Ed.

how much (what rate of application should I use), and how should I apply it (placement)? State and federal experiment stations, implement manufacturers, processors, and farmers throughout the country have worked on these three questions for many years.

Early in the history of this country it was discovered that several of the essential mineral elements are lacking in most of our agricultural soils. Many of these elements are present in the parent material (rocks), but as the insoluble minerals decompose into their soluble components, heavy precipitation in humid regions leaches these soluble elements from the soil.

At the same time, these soils become relatively acid so that when certain chemicals such as phosphorus are applied in fertilizers they



Single-disk opener for band application. Exact placement of band may vary with crop, soil.

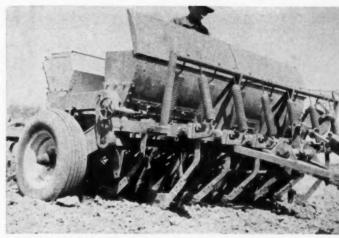
are locked up or are "fixed" in forms unavailable to plant roots.

In most soils phosphorus is the first limiting element in plant nutrition, so acid phosphate (superphosphate) was the first fertilizer recommended. Forty years ago common ratios were 0-1-0 (0-16-0 and 0-20-0) and 1-4-1 (4-16-4). As usage of phosphate increased, nitrogen became limiting so this material was added; and finally potash deficiencies were discovered so the complete N-P-K fertilizer was born. Popular analyses today are 1-1-1 (10-10-10, 12-12-12, and 13-13-13), 1-2-1 (6-12-6, 10-20-10, 12-24-12), and 1-2-2 (5-10-10, 8-16-16, etc.).

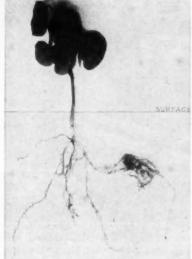
In the early years of the fertilizer industry, low-analysis mixtures (2-12-6, 3-9-3, 4-8-4, etc.) were manufactured because high-analysis compounds were not available. These low-analysis goods were used at rates as low as 50 to 100 pounds per acre.

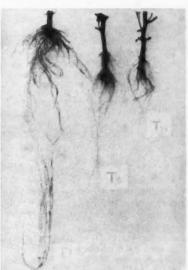
This small amount of plant food had a stimulating effect when placed close to the seed but the low rates of application could not furnish all of the nitrogen, phosphate, and potash needed by the crop. As other cultural practices (varieties, spacing, weed control, etc.) improved, yield potentials increased and greater amounts of fertilizer were required to ensure maximum yields.

Chemical analyses indicate that most crops require large amounts of nitrogen and potash, but rela-



Experimental drill used for planting and fertilizing peas has knife-type openers which place fertilizer in bands 2 inches lower than seed and 2 inches to side of seed.





Photos courtesy C. B. Sayre

Left—Concentration of roots around fertilizer which was placed 2½ inches to side of seed; 1 inch lower than seed. Right—Effect of transplanting on root development of tomotoes: D—direct seeded; Ts—transplanted, using starter solution; Tw—transplanted, using water. Transplanting breaks the tap root and results in a more shallow root system.

tively small amounts of phosphorus. A 20-ton crop of tomatoes, for example, requires 200-80-400 pounds per acre respectively of N, P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>, and K<sub>2</sub>O. Many growers think nothing of applying 100 pounds or more per acre of each of these three major nutrients. High applications of phosphate are necessary because of the low efficiency of utilization. Seldom will a crop use more than 20% of the fertilizer phosphate applied to or for that crop.

As scientific facts were uncovered, it was found that response to phosphate occurs early in the life of the young seedling or transplant. With low rates of application of low-analysis fertilizers, no problems occur; but, as higher rates of more concentrated materials are used, con-

centrations of soluble salts near or in direct contact with germinating seeds or young transplants become toxic or encourage abnormal growth of harmful fungi, bacteria, and other soil organisms.

The major injury occurs from nitrogen and potassium salts—not phosphorus. Thus the evidence strongly justifies the recommendation of a band of fertilizer high in available phosphorus placed near, but not in contact with, the seed.

In band placement of fertilizer, there is less contact between the phosphate in the fertilizer and the phosphorus-fixing fractions of the soil. Thus less phosphate is fixed—and more is available for the crop—when applied in bands than when

(Continued on page 35)



Grower and fieldman examine vigorous planting of pickling cucumbers just before harvesttime.

#### By S. K. RIES

Michigan State University, East Lansing

GROWERS of Michigan's \$5 million pickling cucumber crop have chalked up a considerable victory for themselves in the last five years. They have accomplished this by improving their production practices.

More cucumbers for pickling are grown in Michigan—about 25% of the U. S. crop—than in any other state. During the 10-year period 1945-54, Michigan, Wisconsin, and North Carolina, the three states with the largest acreages, averaged 64, 75, and 80 bushels per acre respectively. During the past five years, the same states have averaged 135, 103, and 84 bushels.

Growers in Michigan have doubled their production per acre, and, perhaps more important, they now obtain higher yields than their two competitors. This 71-bushel increase in productivity of the past five years over the previous 10 years means that the average Michigan cucumber grower is now grossing about \$80 more per acre.

# DOUBLE YOUR CUCUMBER YIELD!

Michigan growers are averaging twice as many pickling cucumbers per acre as they did five years ago. Here's how they do it



Cucumbers 24 inches apart in foreground show weak growth next to 5-inch planting in background.

It pays the grower, his processor, and his labor to produce high yields, because they result in more efficient use of supervision, labor, land, and all the materials of production. Michigan processors can now depend on a uniform supply and better quality from their growers.

Better co-operation between Michigan growers and processors, larger acreages per farm, the use of disease-resistant varieties, new insecticles, and improved production practices have resulted in higher yields.

What are these improved production practices?

Formerly plants were spaced 24 inches apart in rows 6 feet wide and care was taken not to crowd the plants. However, research has indicated that spacing plants 6 inches apart in the row increased early yield by more than 50 bushels and total yield by 70 bushels per acre.

Wide rows were formerly used because it was believed that crowding reduced yields. In one test, row

(Continued on page 38)



Chisholm-Ryder cucumber harvester picks fruits on an untrained row. Machine keeps vines in position.



MSU cucumber harvester picks row which is trained in one direction by air-blast during cultivation.



It makes good sense to improve crop size and quality. You can do just that and add to your profits with GER-PAK Sunlight-resistant Black Polyethylene Mulch. And with higher yields—matured in advance of the regular season—you walk off with top-dollar market prices! Weeds are killed safely—and the ground stays weed-free, moist and soft. Get lightweight, easy-to-handle GER-PAK Polyethylene Mulch in convenient 3- and 4-foot widths, 1000 feet long. Inert to soil and chemicals, weather-resistant, too. Write today for the name of your nearest supplier!





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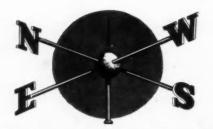


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## STATE



### NEWS

- Demand for Pickles Ups Arkansas Cucumber Acreage
- Asparagus Growers Plan United Front with National Association

#### **Cucumber Pickle Industry Expands**

ARKANSAS-The most intense activity in the cucumber production program in north Arkansas since the enormous cumber pickle industry was established in this state in 1946 is under way this year. The cucumber acreage will be increased in

several counties in 1960.

Faulkner County farmers are signing contracts for 100 acres of cucumbers, which will be purchased by Brown-Miller which will be purchased by Brown-Miller Pickle Company of Texarkana. The con-tract price will be: No. 1, \$5.50 per 100 pounds; No. 2, \$2.50; and No. 3, \$1. This company will also have a huge acreage in White, Independence, and other counties. Storage vats are located at Conway and Bald Knob.

Atkins Pickle Company at Atkins is increasing its contracted for acreage in Pope, Searcy, Stone, and Van Buren Counties. The enormity of this firm's operations was manifested last year when Kroger Company purchased \$500,000 worth of pickles from

Atkins on one order.

A new buying station will be opened at Marshall by Atkins Pickle Company this year. Harry C. Willmering of St. Joe will be station manager. Lona Ackerman, sta-tion manager at Mountain View in Stone County, has announced that the company has requested planting of a larger acreage

in his county. Searcy in White County has been cucumber-growing center since 1946. The crop in White and nearby counties is bought Brown-Miller Pickle Company.

The fourth annual Pink Tomato festival will be conducted at Warren, Bradley County, in the heart of the Arkansas tomato-producing country, June 17-18. In the meantime plans have been made for the planting of approximately 3000 acres of tomatoes for the 1960 harvest in the War-

James Hurley, Jr., and Weldon Sledge are leaders of the group that is making plans for the colorful festival. Sledge is chairman and Hurley is vice chairman. Ten members of the steering committee will serve as chairmen of various activities at the festival. The group is determined to make the 1960 festival the most outstanding program in its history,-Ralph Underhill

#### Study Marketing Orders

NEW JERSEY-Garden Staters recently met with Phillip Alampi, State Secretary of Agriculture, to consider enabling legislation which would permit the establishment of state marketing orders when they are de-

sired by commodity groups.

Enabling legislation had been requested by New Jersey State Sweetpotato Industry Association, Inc. Other groups, including New Jersey Farm Bureau, New Jersey State Grange, and State Agricultural Con-

vention, have urged study of the feasibility of state marketing orders.

William J. Kuhrt, assistant director of California Department of Agriculture, addressed the meeting and answered questions of growers. Kuhrt has directed the marketing order program in California since the initial enabling act was passed in 1937. There are 33 marketing orders now in effect in the Golden state.

State marketing orders usually provide for regulation of movement of a product to market, quality and grade standards, promotion and advertising, and research in production and marketing. Cost of administering the program are borne by the

#### Marketing System Outdated

TENNESSEE-In 1959, Lake County shipped 240,000 five-dozen cases of sweet corn to 43 major cities. Yet, a tour of several major Memphis food stores revealed no corn for sale that had been produced the mid-South. Furthermore, a count of the items in three major stores revealed that almost all of the food had been imported to the rich mid-South agricultural area from far outside the area.

Grant Duke, manager of Memphis Chamber of Commerce Agricultural Department, reported the few processing plants in the area were processing food imported from other states as well as the mid-South.

Meanwhile, unemployed farm labor and farmers in the mid-South who can no longer make a living are leaving the land. Rural counties have lost as much as 30 to

RECEIVES KEYSTONE AWARD

Earl M. Page (left), president of Corneli Seed Company, presents first Keystone Seeds Award of Merit to Theodore Frank, Corneli plant breedere. Frank, who came to this country from Hungary in 1948, has developed many new varieties, including Corneli 14 snap bean and Keystone Resistant Glant pepper.

40% of their population during the last decade.

Most of the problem lies in an anti-quated marketing system, The Lake County corn situation demonstrates not only that sweet corn can be grown profitably in the mid-South but also that the mid-South can become a producer and shipper of food products instead of a buyer.

University of Tennessee has reported that lima beans, beets, corn, cabbage, asparagus, English peas, tomatoes, okra, sweet peppers, hot peppers, lettuce, potasweet peppers, not peppers, rettuce, pota-toes, all greens, turnips, string beans, and pickles can be grown profitably in the mid-South. But the principal crops grown in Tennessee are 1200 acres of black-eye and crowder peas, 9000 acres of okra, 2000 acres of limas, and 4000 acres of greens.

Yet Memphis is one of the nation's big vegetable distributing centers, with a total food sale volume of \$514 million in the 76-county market.

#### **Tip-Burn Resistant Lettuce Variety**

ARIZONA-The Arizona Pure Seed Advisory Committee has approved a new tipburn resistant lettuce variety, Arizona Sunbright, thereby releasing it for use in coming seasons, according to Boyce Foerman, University of Arizona agricultural agent.—Ernest W. Fair.

#### Plan National Asparagus Association

ILLINOIS-At a recent meeting held in Chicago, 22 members of the asparagus industry (representing about 85% of the national production) selected a steering committee to form a national asparagus industry association.

Suggested goals of the national association are: To promote welfare of industry: to act as medium for exchange of information within the industry; to co-ordinate regional approaches to industry problems: to work toward an increase in national sales and consumption through improvement, grading, packing, handling, mer-chandising, and consumer education; to promote research; and to co-operate with

#### YOU be the EXPERT!



ONY had never raised cucumbers before, and he was anxious to have an early harvest. So he was disturbed when the early blossoms dropped off and failed to set fruit. As many as five or six on each plant would open but no small cucumbers formed.

The vines appeared healthy, soil moisture was adequate but night temperatures had been on the low side. What is your diagnosis?

Answer on page 30



## Close-cultivate with ease!

#### Get top fuel economy with Farmall® tractors



On wheels or tracks, IH leads the field! The new T-4 crawler (above) is one of three new International® crawler tractors. The T-4 delivers 26.3 drawbar horsepower\* on gasoline; the T-5, also gasoline, provides 30.9\* horsepower at the drawbar; and the TD-5 Diesel is rated at 28.5 drawbar horsepower\*. These new crawlers feature a low profile, high clearance and wide range of track gauge and position options.

\*Estimated horsepower corrected to standard conditions.

You can't beat a Farmall for the quick, responsive control so necessary for inch-close cultivation. And rigid McCormick® cultivators are your assurance that a close-working ground tool won't sway into the row and destroy valuable crops.

With Farmall, you get top economy, too! This is because you can pick exactly the power size you need to do your job. Regardless of the tractor selected, you get dollar-saving fuel economy and rugged construction that have made IH tractors famous the world over.

Job-tailored Farmall tractors and McCormick equipment are designed to handle all your farming jobs at lowest possible cost.



See your IH dealer soon! He'll be glad to help you pick the IH tractor and equipment that's best for you. Remember, IH wheel and crawler tractors can be "custom" fitted to your farm. Your IH dealer will show you how you can do the kind of work you'll be proud to claim. Stop in soon! Arrange for a free demonstration.

INTERNATIONAL HARVESTER



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#### **NEW FIELD-TESTED 1960** WADE 'RAIN ADVANCES Save Time . . Labor . . Water!

MARKET GARDENERS everywhere have learned the yield and profit boosting advantages of WADE \* RAIN Sprinkler Irrigation. WADE \* RAIN has the Features that save Time, Labor and Operating Cost. Year after year, these Savings mount up to give you the lowest

cost, most satisfactory Sprink-\* "Pay as You fer Irrigation you can own. Grow" ACT NOW ... put WADE ARAIN TO WORK for you this year! WADE RAIN





FREE PLANNING FORM FARM-FACTS easy to plan .

Self-Draining LOKS-IN GASKET Drains Automatically When Pressure is Off...No Lifting

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other agricultural associations having mutual interests

The new association is expected to be officially formed at a meeting of industry members to be scheduled on or before November 30. Directors of the association are to be selected on the basis of one from each major producing area and an additional director will be selected for each 20,000 acres. Thus California will have three representatives.

It was disclosed at the Chicago meeting that California, New Jersey, and Michigan contributed about \$200,000 in 1959 toward promotion and research to increase the sale of asparagus at regional and national levels.

Named to the steering committee were: Vinton N. Thompson, director of markets, Vinton N. Thompson, and of Agriculture, New Jersey Department of Agriculture, (temporary chairman); F. Rene Gossiaux, executive director, New Jersey Industry Council; Bela E. Kennedy, president, Michigan Asparagus Growers Co-operative; Clair C. Davis, chairman of advertising committee, California Fresh and Processed Asparagus Advisory Boards; Gene R. Coe, manager, Washington Asparagus Growers Association; and Ronald Boltman, Boltman Asparagus. Harold J. Hartley, assistant commodity director, American Farm Bureau Federation, will serve in an advisory capacity.

#### Tomato for High Plains

TEXAS-Plainsman, a high-yielding tomato developed for the High Plains area, has been released by Texas Agricultural Experiment Station.

Plainsman was developed as a processing tomato. Fruit of the new variety are round to oblate, firm, medium size (average 5 to 6 ounces), smooth on both shoulder and blossom ends, and dark green in color in greenmature stage. The ripe fruits are bright red in color. Tomato juice manufactured from ripe fruit of Plainsman has consistently rated "fancy" on color. Plants of Plainsman are small and com-

pact. They have been grown without crowding on 42-inch rows, with plants 18 inches apart in the row. Fruit clusters are close together on the main stem and on branches, several clusters frequently mature simultaneously.

Plainsman is classified as an extra-early variety. It has no known resistance to foliage disease or fusarium wilt. However, the small compact plant facilitates standard spraying procedures.

#### "Springsweet" Onions

MICHIGAN-National Onion Association has launched a national campaign to promote the mild sweetness of the spring crop of onions now coming on the market. The onions, named Springsweet by growers, are a flat globe in shape and are avail-

able in both white and yellow varieties.
Full color price cards with the message
"New onions add spring flavor magic . . . white or yellow, they're extra mellow . perfect companions for fresh salads," were made available to produce departments. A second card pictures an onion-topped ham-

burger and garnish vegetables.

J. W. Rose, executive secretary of NOA. reports that a major effort has been made to acquaint newspaper food editors and woman's editors of leading TV stations with the mildness of the new crop. More than 500 woman's editors were sent samples of Springsweet onions.

#### Name District Agent

MAINE-Roland E. Roberts, Middleton, Conn., twice a state winner in National Junior Vegetable Growers Association Production and Marketing contest, has been appointed district agent in vegetables for Co-operative Extension Service of

University of Maine.

Roberts will assume the duties carried former extension vegetable specialist Robert W. Paulson, who resigned last fall to become 4-H agent in Wayne County, Michigan. Roberts is a graduate of University of Connecticut, where he majored in horticulture-vegetable production. He will make his headquarters in Orono.

#### Sweet Corn Marketing Order

FLORIDA-Sweet corn growers in the central and southern area of Florida have approved a state marketing agreement which includes a 2 cent per crate assessment with the funds to be used for a promotional program. The agreement was approved by more than the required 65% of the growers in Henry County and the western part of Palm Beach County.

This supplements a voluntary program which has been in effect for the past two

#### Become a GREEN THUMB MEMBER

GREEN THUMB MEMBER
In the April issue, membership in Vegetable
Growers Association of America, including Washington headquarters and a monthly newsletter, was
listed at \$2. This \$2 price is for growers who are
members of a local or state vegetable or potato
association affiliated with VGAA and is usually paid
by the association direct to VGAA for each member,
For growers who cannot participate in a group
membership, the Green Thumb membership applies,
as follows:

80 acres or less, Under I acre of greenhouse	5	10
81 to 500 acres, Over I acre of greenhouse	5	25
500 acres or over		

500 acres or over

If you are a member of an association not affiliated with VGAA, talk to your president about a group membership in the national association, to lower your dues and bring the advantages of VGAA to all your members.

For a Green Thumb membership send remittance to 80b Frederick, Executive Secretary, 528 Mills Bldg., 17th and Pennsylvania Ave., N. W., Washington 6, D. C.

years. A sweet corn committee will administer the advertising program, which begins this year, from Florida Fruit & Vegetable Association at Orlando. The program called for advertising in 27 daily newspapers in 20 major markets during April and May.

The grower committee is headed by Lewis Friend, Pahokee, with George Wedgworth, Belle Glade, as vice-chairman, and Billy Rogers, South Bay, as secretary-treasurer. Other members of the commit-Walter Hall, Pahokee; Ross Wilson and S. N. Knight, Belle Glade; C. A. Thomas, Lake Harbor; and David Earl, Oviedo.— Porter V. Taylor.

#### Cold Kills Tomate Plants

GEORGIA-Cold weather has tomato growers in the Tifton area wondering about their crop. Usually tomatoes are transplanted in the area by March 15 and are selling in quantity on Tifton Farmers Market by June 15. Last year \$222,386 of tomatoes were sold on the Tifton Market.

This year may be different. Plants for the Georgia crop are usually secured from north Florida. But cold weather in that area killed tomato plants and none were available to Georgia growers until late April.

Some growers tried to grow their own tomato plants but the extreme cold weather during March damaged the plants severely and killed out some of the beds.

Georgia-grown tomatoes will be available about the same time as those grown in Florida. How the lateness will affect the price is something about which growers are wondering.—Pauline T. Stephens.

AMERICAN VEGETABLE GROWER



Colorado Potato Beetle Leafhoppers Fleabeetles Potato Tuberworms

Armyworm Green Stink Bug Leaf-footed plant bug Tough-to-kill aphids

### Thiodan

kills them all: keeps killing them

Besides positive control of all these potato pests, Thiodan provides every other feature you've looked for in a new broad spectrum insecticide. It provides really long-lasting residual control; and Thiodan is safer to use than many

pesticides. Thiodan is harmless to vines and causes no off-flavor in potatoes. And what may be a bigger bonus, recent field experience indicates that Thiodan treated plots produced greater yields than other standard treatments under controlled test conditions.

On all counts, performance, residual control and safety, only Thiodan provides so much help

producing bigger, better crops. See your dealer today!

TECHNICAL CHEMICAL DEPT., NIAGARA CHEMICAL DIVISION, FOOD MACHINERY AND CHEMICAL CORPORATION, MIDDLEPORT, N. Y.

# "42"

#### **TRANSPLANTERS**



"42" Basic Unit

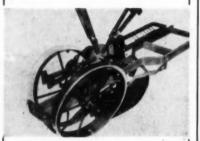
In 1 or Multiple Row Lift Types, 1 or 2 Row Pull Types. Also with Fertilizer Equipment





Plant Pick-up Tray

Simply drop plants into the tray. The "42" Spaces and waters them precisely.



Adjustable Packer Wheels

A Width to suit your Soil Conditions

Write for free Literature

POWELL MANUFACTURING COMPANY, INC.

Wilson, North Carolina

# Growers Try PAPER MULCH

Commercial tests in Illinois update its application and use

> By N. F. OEBKER and J. W. COURTER

> > University of Illinois

THE newest innovation being tried by growers in Illinois is a fungicide-treated paper for mulching vegetables. In 1959, the department of horticulture of University of Illinois conducted tests with the new mulch on commercial vegetable acreage in the Prairie state.

Paper mulch offers many of the same benefits as black plastic mulch. It controls weeds in the row, conserves moisture, keeps fruits clean, helps prevent fruit rots, warms soil in spring, prevents leaching of nutrients, and maintains good physical condition of the soil. All of these benefits contribute to earlier crops, bigger yields, and better quality.

Paper has two big advantages over plastic mulch—lower cost and no disposal problem. A 40-pound black paper 40 inches wide will be available this year which will cost about \$100 per acre (6-foot row spacing) compared to \$120 to \$140 for 1.5 mil plastic. Unlike plastic which must be removed, paper can be plowed under without interfering with the following crop.

Chief disadvantage of paper is that it tears easily. However, this problem can be overcome if a good seedbed is prepared (large stones, clumps of sod, lumps of soil puncture paper and clog plows of laying machine) and if the paper is laid carefully.

The paper mulch used in the 1959 tests was a brown kraft-type treated with a fungicide to prevent it from decomposing during the growing season. Several different weights were used.

A light paper (30-pound) had to be discarded because enough light penetrated to permit weed growth; a heavy paper (60-pound) because of high cost. To overcome the problem of light penetration, a black 30-pound paper was tried and gave complete weed control in the area covered.

This black mulching paper is made by Mosinee Paper Mills Company, Mosinee, Wis.

The well prepared, level seedbed should be wide enough to properly

lay and anchor the paper. Enough fertilizer should be applied to carry the plants through the season as it is difficult to side-dress after the paper is in place.

Paper mulch is easily laid with a tractor-attached plastic mulch applicator manufactured by Engine Parts Manufacturing Company, Cleveland, Ohio, and modified for use with paper. In our tests the paper was laid at a rate of less than two hours per acre. This type of machine could be built in any good farm shop.

A tractor with hydraulic lift and rigid drawbar will help to properly control and adjust the applicator while the paper is being laid. Any movement of the machine from side to side places stress on the paper, causing it to tear.

In the tests, 12-inch disks, one on each side on the rear of the machine.



Heavy weed growth under mulch caused by light penetrating brown (30-pound weight) paper.



No light penetrated black (30-pound) paper mulch. Result: complete weed control in area.

did a better job of anchoring the paper with soil than the plow blades. The disks did not clog with undecomposed crop residues, often a problem with plow blades.

Plow blades were used in front of the machine to make furrows, but disks could be used there also. A floating wheel, instead of rigid hard rubber wheels, was necessary to hold the edge of the paper in the furrow until it was covered with soil.

The biggest drawback when using a mulch such as paper or plastic is the hand planting of seeds or transplanting through the mulch. The normal process is to cut holes in the paper at the desired distances apart and to place the seed or plant in the soil at these points. A desirable and workable spacing between rows for tomatoes and cucumbers when using paper mulch was found to be 6 feet.

Agricultural engineers is at University of Illinois are at work on development of a machine which will place seeds through the paper at the time the paper is laid. Such a planter will make paper more practical for commercial use—especially for vine crops such as cucumbers and melons.

Hoeing and cultivating are reduced considerably with paper mulching. With vine crops only a little hand weeding may be needed around the plants at thinning time. Weeds are seldom a problem around transplants. Some cultivation is needed in the area between rows.

Preliminary studies show that black mulching materials of paper or plastic when exposed to sunlight increase the soil temperature. This is an advantage in the spring but in



Tractor-attacked plastic mulch laying machine modified to lay paper. Rigid drawbar controls, adjusts applicator, prevents paper from tearing.

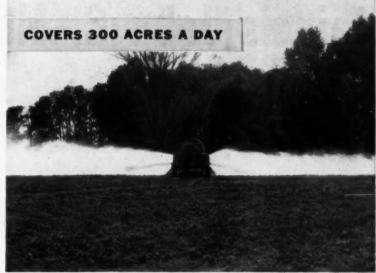
midsummer high soil temperatures are often undesirable because they reduce root growth, resulting in decreased yields. To avoid this problem good foliage growth should be encouraged.

It was of interest to find that soil temperatures under brown mulching paper were about the same as under cultivated soils.

No farm yield records were kept in 1959 but experiments in 1958 showed significant increases in yield from mulching both tomatoes and cucumbers (AVG, May, 1959, pg. 16). In 1959, cucumbers, the only crop studied in replicated tests, gave over 90% increase in both early and total yield when mulched.

Any grower who is interested in finding a new method of producing bigger yields of better quality produce should give this modern paper mulch a try.

The End.



Unretouched photo shows Myers superior two-way coverage.

## Myers Exclusive Air Handling and Two-Way Discharge give

#### UNMATCHED PROTECTION

Big volume air velocity is delivered directly off fan blades, gives fast, effective coverage over a wide spray swath.

Plants receive complete, protective coverage from top to bottom—even under adverse wind conditions.

This unmatched protection is not available from other sprayers which depend on the added boost of unpredictable down winds or cross winds to carry their spray pattern.

#### A model designed for every spraying job



Big, powerful 227 covers 300 acres a day.



Compact, efficient F29 covers 100 acres a day.



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for a demonstration of a Myers air or boom sprayer in your own field—or for more information write to:



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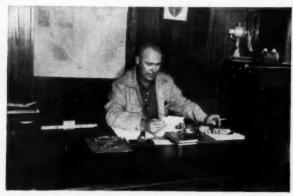
# Maine's John C. McCall grows with up-to-date equipment and



John C. "Tex" McCall uses two-way radio to check progress of a spraying operation on another of the farms which make up Dupram Farms.



Flag flies over the large Garrison Colonial farm home of McCall and his wife, Ardis, shown on steps.



McCall maintains a modern, well-equipped office on the farm, to conduct business reaching many distant points in the country.

# potatoes the modern way... a DITHANE M-22 spray program

"Taterstate" brand of Certified Foundation Seed Potatoes go from Dupram Farms in Washburn, Maine, to 28 or more states each year.

Owned by Harry Umphrey and his family, the modern 1200-acre potato operation at Dupram Farms is managed by John C. McCall, a son-in-law of Mr. Umphrey.

Along with managing this large farming operation, "Tex" McCall finds time for an active role in Boy Scout, Rotary and Town Council work. He also serves as president of the Associated Industries of Maine, vice president of the Maine Polled Hereford Assoc., director of the National Assoc. of Manufacturers, vice president of the Aroostook Potato Growers, and officer in the family owned farm supply, frozen food and starch companies. Fishing and horseback riding are his favorite leisure activities.

McCall has now used DITHANE M-22 (maneb) fungicide for two years. He says, "The performance of this product has convinced us that it is superior to any fungicide we have ever used to control potato blight."



Foreman Harry Brewer unloads DITHANE M-22 from pickup and George Tardiff fills sprayer as McCall watches the operation.



Sons Billy, 13, and Harry, 7, aboard their pet horses, Streak and Honey, respectively.



As a sideline to Dupram Farms' potato growing and processing business, 150 head of registered Hereford beef cattle are fattened for market.

**DITHANE M-22**...now 80% maneb ...from your partner in crop protection

DITHANE is a trademark, Reg. U.S. Pat. Off. and in principal foreign countries.



Chemicals for Agriculture

### ROHM & HAAS

WASHINGTON SQUARE, PHILADELPHIA 5, PA.



## DITHANE M-22

Now, more than ever, DITHANE M-22 is your most effective protection against tomato diseases, and your greatest assurance of higher yields and bigger profits. This time-proved 80% maneb fungicide controls early and late blight, anthracnose, gray leaf spot and septoria leaf spot on tomatoes. It also improves the vigor and color of the plants . . . making bigger yields possible. To kill fruitworm, hornworm, pinworm and psyllid on tomatoes, use RHOTHANE insecticide . . . another field-proved product from your partner in crop protection. See your dealer now for dosage and timing information.

DITHANE and RHOTHANE are trademarks, Reg. U.S. Pat. Off. and in principal foreign countries.



Chemicals for Agriculture

### ROHM & HAAS

WASHINGTON SQUARE, PHILADELPHIA 5, PA.

# As It Looks to Me

By JOHN CAREW

Michigan State University, East Lansing

TRY THIS simple problem in arithmetic: You sell lettuce to a chain store buyer for 10 cents a head. He sells it retail for 30 cents a head. What is the percentage mark-up?

Most growers would solve it this way:

30¢ (retail price) -10¢ grower's price) 20¢ (mark-up)

20¢ (mark-up) 10¢ (grower's price) = 200% mark-up

But chain stores will figure it this way:

30¢ (retail price) —10¢ grower's price) 20¢ (mark-up)

20¢ (mark-up) 30¢ (retail price) = 66% mark-up

The difference comes from the fact that chain stores, in fact most retail sales organizations, calculate percentage mark-up on retail price, not on cost price; in other words, what

they sell it for, not what they buy it for

By calculating percentage mark-up in this manner, produce merchandisers rightfully insist that no fruit or vegetable can be marked up higher than 100%, even

though they may be pricing tomatoes at 40 cents per pound when they bought them for 10 cents.

Debating the validity of this method of figuring mark-up is almost pointless. More important is to realize that it is standard practice.

A bank will loan you money to finance a car at 5% interest. At the end of 36 months you may find you actually paid 15%. You were not cheated—it is just that you and the bank don't calculate in just the same way.

Chain stores, both corporate and voluntary, now sell 83% of our nation's food. They will continue to play an increasingly dominant role in the marketing of vegetables and fruits. Whether growers agree with chain store procurement and pricing policies or not, a need for greater mutual understanding is apparent.

Manufacturers of soap, automobiles, and corn flakes maintain a pointed interest in the retail mer-

AMERICAN VEGETABLE GROWER

chandising of their products. Vegetable growers would do well to become equally acquainted with the markets to whom they sell.

#### Compaction-Free Planting

Every now and then someone comes out with an idea that makes you wonder why it wasn't put to use earlier.

Packing the soil under the seed and covering it with loose soil has proven superior to the standard planting method of running the press wheel on top of the soil. Soil crusting is reduced, moisture losses retarded, and soil compaction is much less of a problem.

Bill Stout, of Michigan State University, and William Hollis, of University of Maryland, found this method increased germination and resulted in higher yields.

Hollis had the firming wheel on a snap bean planter run in the bottom of the furrow pressing the uncovered seed into the soil. Loose soil then filled the furrow and covered the seed. He obtained more pod-bearing plants, more pods per plant, and a marked increase in yield.

#### Incentive Pay

Bonus pay for farm help can be a profitable labor management device.

Packing house crews or field help cannot always be paid on a piecework basis. This is particularly true for foremen or other supervisory help working for a set wage or salary.

It is human nature to work a bit harder if something "extra" is in the offing.

Try to link pay to performance. Determine the standard work rate for each work crew or job and reward men for increased productivity.

Talk with growers who have become labor management conscious, and you will learn about:

● The salaried farm manager who receives a bonus of 10% of the additional net profit on all crops that exceed a certain previously established "normal" yield.

 Pickers who receive a 10% bonus if they continue working for the entire season.

 Members of a packing shed crew who paid additional when they exceed a predetermined number of packages per day.

 A tractor driver whose base wage is supplemented when yields are high.

Give incentive pay a trial. Good farm labor relations are always rewarded.

The End.

Working drawings for an attractive, easy-tobuild roadside stand are available for \$2.00 from AMERICAN VEGETABLE GROWER, Willoughby, Ohio.

# SRUR-RERIE Sequal Matte

AUTOMAT Reduces Labor for an entire seas

Sequa-Matic Unit

"SEQUA-MATIC"
VALVE with
Simple 3-Stage
Operation

#### **AUTOMATICALLY...**

Reduces Labor Costs by providing irrigation for an entire season with just one pipe setting.

**Increases Profits** by utilizing all water to the maximum with virtually no labor cost.

**Increases Yields** by providing the right amount of water at the right time.

Improves Crop Quality by optimum moisture control from planting time to crop harvest.

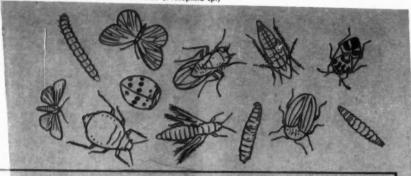


This system progressively actuates multiple sprinklers which automatically move the sprinkling operation across a grid type installation from one end of the field to the other.

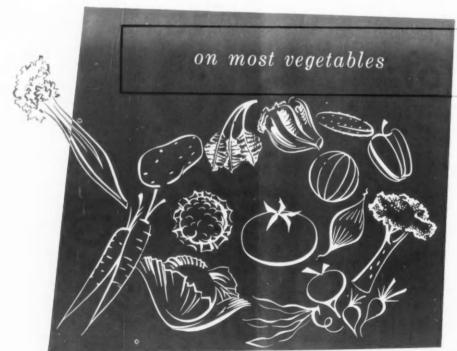
A typical 40-acre system may use up to 52 laterals.

BEAN		Dept. AVG- D CHEMICAL CORPORATION NDO, FLORIDA • SAN JOSE, CALIFI	
Gentlemen: Please send me complete infor- mation on:	NameAddress		
<ul> <li>Sequa-Matic Irrigation</li> <li>SHUR-RANE Sprinkler</li> <li>Irrigation System</li> </ul>	City Former	State	

Insects: APHIDS • COLORADO POTATO BEETLES • CORN EARWORMS • DIAMONDBACK MOTHS
DIPTEROUS LEAF MINERS • FLEA BEETLES • HARLEQUINN CABBAGE BUGS • IMPORTED CABBAGEWORMS
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POTATO WIREWORMS • VINEGAR FLIES (Drosophila sp.)



controls most insects



Vegetable Crops: BEANS (lima) \* BEANS (snap) \* BEETS \* BROCCOLI \* CABBAGE \* CARROIS CAULIFLOWER \* CELERY \* COLLARDS \* CUCUMBERS \* ENDIVE \* KALE \* LETTUCE \* ONIONS \* PARSLEY PARSNIPS \* PEPPERS \* POTATOES \* RADISHES \* SPINACH \* SQUASH (summer and winter) \* SWISH CHARD TOMATOES \* TURNIPS (roots) \* TURNIPS (tops) Melons: CANTALOUPES \* MUSKMELONS \* WATERMELONS

### DIAZINON

#### get even the tough ones!

- broad spectrum action
- simplifies spray programs
- saves time, labor, pesticides
- close to harvest protection
- one of the safer phosphate insecticides

Residue tolerance 0.75 ppm

#### GEIGY AGRICULTURAL CHEMICALS

Division of Geigy Chemical Corporation • Saw Mill River Road, Ardsley, N.Y.



# **NOW! Sprays** really stick and stay

with revolutionary new

# PLYA

#### Liquid Polyethylene Spreader-Sticker

It's a fact! Revolutionary new Plyac makes sprays stick better... last longer! With Plyac, you can stretch the time between sprays... do less re-spraying . . . increase the effectiveness of all your sprays.

Plyac is Allied Chemical's totally new liquid spreader-sticker made with polyethylene. Your sprays will last longer...work more effectively ... even in rainy weather when other sprays wash off easily!

Liquid form is easy to measure, easy to add. No mess. No fuss. You use only 2 to 4 ounces of Plyac in most cases for each 100 gallons of spray mixture. For extra performance from all your sprays, use Plyac this season!

\*Trademark of Allied Chemical Corporation



GENERAL CHEMICAL DIVISION 40 Rector Street, New York 6, N. Y.

COLORFUL LABELS THAT SELL WRITE WIRE OR PHONE BRANDAU CRAIG DICKERSON CO. NASHVILLE 3, TENN. 304 10 TH AVE. SO. PHONE ALPINE 6-4151

#### **TOMATOES**

#### Tips on Growing Fireball

T IS becoming increasingly apparent that new varieties may have cultural requirements different from the older standard varieties in use. As basic knowledge in genetics increases and plant breeding techniques improve, wider variations in habits and types of new varieties tend to occur. Consequently, we often must tailor cultural practices to conform to the needs of a new variety being tested. If we don't, a new type may never reach its potential performance, at least consistently.

A good example of this situation is illustrated by the Fireball tomato which was introduced about 1952 as an early market variety. It has been grown rather extensively in the Northeast in spite of somewhat erratic performance. In the recent search for an earlier processing variety for western New York, Fireball was scrutinized because of its earliness. It proved to have a number of characteristics that are desirable in a tomato for processing as well as for fresh market. Some of these are:

Good internal fruit color.

 Relatively good resistance to cracking, blossom-end rot, and sunburn.

• Firm, well-shaped fruit that holds well on the vine after coloring.

 Ability to set large, concentrated yields allowing an early pick of 4 to 8 tons and a second pick of 10 to 20 tons. Like several other early determinate varieties, it develops flower clusters early and after the first flowering it averages about one cluster per one and one-half leaves as compared to three leaves for most other

The relatively small vine permits

easy picking.

It sets fruit well under adverse conditions, particularly low night temperatures and low light intensity. This means Fireball often will set fruit when others fail, thus assuring consistently early production.

Faults of the variety include: sparse foliage; low acidity; susceptibility to the disorder known as graywall or blotchy ripening when it matures under cool temperatures; lack of disease resistance; and highly variable performance. When handled like other varieties it often produced miserable yields, small size fruit, and weak vines, and it became defoliated early by leaf diseases. Results of tests and observations over the past three years show that some of these faults can be corrected, particularly the sparse foliage and erratic nature.

The use of relatively young, tender transplants is the most important factor in obtaining good yields of medium-sized fruits. A direct relationship appears to exist between age of transplant (time from seeding to field setting) and fruit size. Sizes of .30 to .40 pound per fruit (4½ to 6½ ounces) have been obtained with three- to five-week-old transplants and by direct field seeding. Average size tends to decrease, sometimes down to about .15 pound per fruit, as older plants are used.

Yields also are likely to be lower with older plants, but condition of the plants seems to be more important. Over-hardening, which results in slow resumption of growth, appears undesirable. Plants with open flowers at



Fred Cook, Genesee County, New York, get over 30 tons of fruit for fresh market and for processing from this field of Fireball. He used local and southern plants, applied 6 Inches of water, sprayed 7 times for discose control.

time of field setting may set fruit soon after, resulting in seriously stunted plants and low yields. Such plants usually give a few extra early small tomatoes but this may not be economically justifiable even for early fresh market crops.

Having flowers on Fireball is serious because these flowers are likely to set fruit before the plant is established in the field and sufficient leaves have developed to supply food for both fruit development and plant growth. Flowers appear to develop earlier on plants grown at 50 to 60° F, than at 60 to 70° F,

For the processing crop, where extreme earliness is seldom a factor, relatively small, young (30 to 50 days from seeding), and fairly tender plants without flowers are advised. Growers must exercise care in transplanting such plants if good survival is to be obtained. Transplanting on hot or very windy days should be avoided. If possible, an irrigation shortly after transplanting may be very helpful during dry periods.

For the market crop where fairly high early yields are desired, plants 45 to 60 days old and relatively large may be best. Extra space in the flat (6 to 8 square inches per plant) helps

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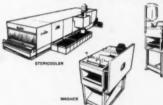
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**PROBLEM:** one of the largest vegetable-growing operations in the country needed effective, low-residual control of worms and aphids close to harvest time. Several other insecticides had proved unsatisfactory on broccoli, spinach and turnip greens, and time was short. **SOLUTION:** on the advice of the local ORTHO Fieldman, an initial shipment of 5 tons of ORTHO DIBROM 4 Dust was ordered. Results of the dusting were so outstanding that over 400,000 lbs. of remarkable new ORTHO DIBROM have been used, to date, by this one farm.

DIBROM effective in 15 minutes! Insects dropped from broccoli plants—dead just minutes after contact with dust.



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Dear Mr. Gilbert:

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The Simplex method of soil testing has been used in our greenhouses for many years with excellent results and we have found the tests very simple and fast to make and easy to interpret.

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#### EASY AND ACCURATE

Test instructions are simple and test results in parts per million are easily converted to pounds per 1,000 sq. feet or acre by use of tables.

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KEMP shredders start under \$100.00 (without power). The new literature shows the different sizes in the line. Send for your KEMP story today, Make the KEMP comparison and you'll undoubtedly choose KEMP—most people do.

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to get larger, bushier plants without excessive height or age. Growing plants in a warm greenhouse (60° F. at night) tends to permit more growth before flowers develop. Having a cluster of medium to large buds appears ideal for early production, but removal of any open flowers is advised if severely stunted plants are to be avoided.

Use of good transplants is the first step to successful culture of Fireball. In addition, it also pays to select deep, fertile soils that are both permeable and well drained. High populations of 5000 to 7000 plants per acre in rows 3 to 5 feet apart leads to high early yields as well as efficient use of the land.

Rapid growth is necessary after transplanting to get as large a plant as possible before heavy fruit setting occurs. Using a starter solution, providing good soil moisture, and sidedressing with 50 to 100 pounds of actual nitrogen two to three weeks after transplanting appear to be desirable practices.

Very important is control of foliage diseases by a rigid spray program starting soon after the first fruits set. For the remaining cultural operations, follow what is normally considered good practice for tomatoes.

Other varieties in the early determinate group of tomatoes seem to be less sensitive to the condition of the transplants, yet the suggestions outlined above for Fireball may help to make them more reliable. Perhaps some altering of practices even more drastic than given here may be needed to obtain maximum performance of some of these varieties. Also keep in mind the necessity for tailoring cultural practices to the variety applies to new varieties of other crops as well as tomatoes.-Philip A. Minges and Clark Nicklow, Cornell University, Ithaca, N.Y.

### Answer to YOU be the EXPERT!

(See page 14)

The first five or six blossoms on cucumber plants are male flowers and never will set fruit. Cucumbers and squash have separate male and female flowers. If Tony had examined his plants closely he would have observed that those early flowers had long slender stems while the later formed female flowers had slightly thicker stems with a definite bulge.

If these female flowers had been dropping off without setting fruit, Tony should have brought in bees to pollinate the crop.



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The two things you want most in a potato digger are built into the new Oliver No. 8: light draft and assurance of a high percentage of bruise-free potatoes. Here is a digger that was engineered to include all the features growers asked for in a nation-wide survey.

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with standard adjustable axie, telescoping tongue, plastic coated tank, 8 gal. ger min, pump at 400 p.s.i. Includes power take-off shaft, 15 inch wheels. 200 gal. tank, same equipment, \$420.00 For 4 piston 10 gal, per min, pump at 500 p.s.i. add \$31.50.

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section vegetable booms, 4 row, with individual set-on control \$121.90. Complete—ready to attach to any of the above machines or your existing sprayer. You'll get a long out of our boom—no other like it on the market.

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#### **MELONS**

#### Nematode Control

 $^{66}\mathbf{R}^{\mathrm{IGHT}}$  up there all the plants were dying. The ground under the plants was bulging and cracking. When you pulled the plants out of the ground the roots looked like they were sweetpotatoes instead of cantaloupes. None of the farmers around here knew what the matter was, but they called it club root. The plants barely staved alive-never 'appled' out. And if there was a dry spell, they just withered and died.'

This was Howard Humphries speaking. He was describing the economically disastrous experience of the truck farmers near Salisbury on the Eastern Shore of Maryland. As he talked, he pointed to the crest of a small slope on his 100-acre farm where he has spent most of his life growing string beans, tomatoes, cantaloupes, watermelons, cucumbers, and sweetpotatoes.

In the middle 1950's, he and his fellow truck farmers were giving up growing these valuable vegetable crops on large parts of their farms because of "club root." Each year the blighted areas grew larger and larger. To eke out a living they had to plant more and more of their land in corn and soybeans which gave them a much smaller cash income.

Investigations at this time by Dr. I. G. Kantzes and other plant pathologists of Maryland Agricultural Experiment Station at Salisbury disclosed the "club root" was caused by a species of nematode, Meloidogyne incognita acrita. This is a tiny, almost microscopic worm that penetrates roots and sucks away a thrifty plant's vitality, making it barely able to set fruit and resist drought.

At that time the only known way to fight nematodes was to fumigate the land with a nematocide several weeks or months before planting. But this required special equipment and was almost prohibitively expensive. As a result very little fumigation was done and the infested areas got bigger and bigger.

Inspired by successful tests that had been conducted on strawberries, Dr. Kantzes began experimenting at the Salisbury station with Nemagon soil fumigant mixed with fertilizer which could be applied as a side-dressing at the same time the vegetable seeds were being planted. If this worked, it would not only effectively control root knot but would have the advantages of eliminating an extra operation and the need for costly special application equipment.

In 1957, Dr. Kantzes got Humphries to help with a field test of the new Nemagon treatment on his cantaloupes. A commercial fertilizer distributor mixed 25% Nemagon granules at the rate of 35 pounds to 500 pounds of fertilizer. This was applied at seeding time at a depth of 3 to 4 inches at a rate of 500 pounds to the acre with conventional fertilizer sidedressing equipment attached to a planter or tractor. This was equiva-lent to applying ½ gallon of Nemagon liquid per acre.

The row tests on the Humphries' farm were so encouraging they were repeated in 1958. In 1959, the treatment was tried out on larger plots of 3 and 4 acres each. The results demonstrated conclusively that nematodes could be controlled economically in this way, and the treatment used on the Humphries' farm has now been recommended for watermelon, cucumbers, and all the other cucurbits.

In a formal paper on their experiment which was printed recently in a scientific magazine, Dr. Kantzes and his associates, W. R. Jenkins and



Untreated plant on left shows effect of root-knot nematode on root system. Healthy plant on right received Nemagon-fertilizer treatment.

R. A. Davis, reported the severity of the nematode infestation had been reduced on an index number basis from 4.4 to 1.4. To get an index number of 1, 100% of the roots must be clean of galls. Therefore, an index number of 1.4 translates to almost 100% control.

But no such scientific measurement was needed to convince Humphries and his neighbors, for it was obvious upon even casual observation which plots had been treated and which were non-treated control plots. They could tell by plant vigor without examining the roots.

In fact, Humphries has no hesitation in crediting the new Nemagon fertilizer method of treatment developed by the Agricultural Experiment Station at Salisbury with virtually saving his farm.

"I'm sure glad Dr. Kantzes asked us to try out this new treatment," he says. "Now the plants do well wherever this is applied." THE END.



# Kill crop destroying nematodes with **Nemagon** Soil Fumigant

Grow healthy, vigorous vegetables this season by knocking out nutrition-robbing nematodes with powerful, long-lasting Nemagon soil fumigant.

Nemagon soil fumigant is easy to use. It's available as a liquid for soil injection equipment and in granules for use as a mix in fertilizer. Once in the soil it becomes a potent gas—goes right to work and kills nematodes as it spreads. One treatment

protects vegetables from nematode infestation throughout the growing period. For best results follow label directions carefully.

This season, grow healthy, vigorous vegetables. Get Nemagon soil fumigant now and knock out root-choking nematodes. It's available from your pesticide dealer. See him today.

#### SHELL CHEMICAL COMPANY

AGRICULTURAL CHEMICALS DIVISION 110 West 51st Street, New York 20, New York



#### PLANT GROWER'S CORNER

By RAY SHELDRAKE

MAY is the month that plant growers have looked forward to all season. In many southern areas, a large volume of plants moved out in April but in the northern states. May is the period of large

The plant growing business is no different from any other business in that it takes large volume, handled efficiently, to make the largest net income. Unfortunately, some plant growers get to feeling that they have too many plants and no way to move them.

Don't be afraid to advertise and run specials. Most people are anxious to know where they can get well grown plants and your only method of letting them know is by advertising. Probably some of the best money you can spend will be in large newspaper ads and in radio adver-

Some plant growers run a weekend special, perhaps a free pak with every five purchased. This is an excellent come-on and will certainly help to move volume. Large, well grown, potted tomato plants of a good hybrid also make an excellent advertising gimmick. These might be in 3-inch peat pots or even larger size clay or plastic pots.

To get things off to a good start, many growers will have an open house some weekend early in the gardening season. If you hold an open house, try to have a few of the different varieties in bloom and on display-it will help sales. Have posters hung around in the sales area that show the colors of the different varieties. Most seedsmen will supply their customers with these posters.

It is not too late to sow seeds of many of the annual flowering plants. Excellent tomato plants can be produced in five weeks from seed sown around the first part of May. Plants come along much faster during this month of good light and better temperatures. Many years it is difficult to find prime plants after June 1. Oftentimes, sales will be very good even through June. Petunias seeded around the first of May will make salable plants by the end of June if given plenty of water and nutrients. These fresh plants produced late in the season will boost your total bedding plant sales.

Many insects become active now that the weather has warmed up. and a regular spray program with a good insecticide to control insects, especially aphids, will prove helpful. Field grown pansies are subject to attack by aphids and a regular spraying will give the foliage a much greener color.

Often, virus diseases are spread from weeds growing around the greenhouse to plants such as tomatoes and peppers. Why not make a definite effort this year to spray the area adjoining your greenhouse with a residual weed killer that will keep down these troublesome weeds? It is not possible to make a general recommendation so check with your state extension service for recommendations on weed control.

Some of our most enthusiastic bedding plant growers get a great deal of joy and advertising by having a small trial grounds near their sales building. This can be planted so that it is in clear view of highway traffic. An attractive sign over the area welcoming visitors is helpful.

It may be difficult to keep these trial grounds weed free and looking neat but I believe it is worth the effort to treat the soil in this area with a soil sterilant for weed control and better growth of your

Many growers have tried Vapam or VPM soil sterilant. This will prove satisfactory if the soil is worked up into a good friable condition and has adequate moisture for seed germination. The soil temperature should be about 60° F.

Recent work with this chemical has indicated that it pays to cover the surface of the soil for 24 hours

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THE BETTER, STURDIER PEAT POT—AMERICAN MADE - "FULL DIMENSIONAL." Val-Peat Pot sizes are inside top diameter "full dimensional." Our new 2½-in. square Val-Peat Pots hold 42% more soil than some other peat pots of the same stated dimension. Our 2¼-in. round Val-Peat Pots also hold more soil than other brands.

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#### VAL-PEAT POT ORDERS 150 LBS. AND OVER PREPAID IN U.S.A.

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#### VAL-PEAT POTS-ROUND SIZES

Inside Top Dimension of Pot	Quantity	Pots per Carton	Wt. of Carton	per 1000	
S-1428A 21/4-in. Diameter	2,000 to 18,000 20,000 to 74,000	2000	28 lbs.	\$ 7.75 7.25	
Round S-1428B 3-in.	76,000 and over 1,000 to 9,000	1000	27 lbs.	6.75 13.75	
Diameter	10,000 to 49,000	1000	at 100,	12.75	
Round S-1428C 4-in.	50,000 and over 500 to 2,000	500	33 lbs.	11.50 28.75	
Diameter Round	2,500 to 10,000 11,000 and over			26.25	
S-1428E 4-in.	500 to 2,000	500	30 lbs.	28.75	

#### VAL-PEAT POTS-SQUARE SIZES

Inside Top Dimension of Pot	Quantity	Number Pots per Carton	Approx. Wt. of Carton	Price per 1000
S-1428 1%-in. Diameter Square	2,500 to 17,500 20,000 to 70,000 72,500 and over	2500	28 lbs.	\$ 6.90 6.40 5.90
S-1428F 21/4-in. Diameter Square	2,000 to 18,000 20,000 to 74,000 76,000 and over	2000	39 lbs.	10.50 9.75 9.00
S-1428D 3-in. Diameter Square	1,000 to 9,000 10,000 to 49,000 50,000 and over	1000	38 lbs.	17.25 16.00 14.75

#### LITE-WEIGHT No. 10 TWO SQUARE SIZES-21/4 and 3-inch

For some growing purposes, these lighter weight pots are preferred.

Inside top Dimension of pot 2½-in. Square No. 10	Quantity 2,500 to 17,000 20,000 to 72,500 75,000 and over	pots per Carton 2500	Wt. of Carton 35 lbs.	Price per 1000 \$7.50 7.00 6.50	Inside top Dimension of pot 3-in. Square No. 10	Quantity 1,000 to 9,000 10,000 to 49,000 50,000 and over	pots per Carton 1000	Wt. of Carton 32 lbs.	Price per 1000 \$14.50 13.25 12.00
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#### VAUGHAN'S SEED CO.

CHICAGO 6, 601-609 W. Jackson Blvd. NEW YORK 13, 85 White St.

with very thin plastic to hold the vapors of the chemical in and keep the surface of the soil moist. The general recommendations are 1 quart of the material in 5 gallons of water per 100 square feet, but this may vary with local areas so check with your local dealer or extension worker.

Another material that does an excellent job is methyl bromide, which is marketed in 1-pound pressure cans sufficient for 100 square feet. This material has the same temperature and moisture requirements. Methyl bromide should be injected under a gastight plastic cover. After 24 hours, remove the cover. A special applicator is available at a reasonable price.

Be sure to follow the recommendations given by the manufacturers of soil fumigants on the waiting period required before planting.

One note of warning—salvia does not seem to be tolerant of methyl bromide and caution should be used in using this chemical when fumigating soils where salvia will be planted.

THE END.

#### APPLYING PLANT FOOD

(Continued from page 11)

applied broadcast. Obviously, this effect is of much greater economic importance on acid and/or heavy soils, where fixation capacity is high, than it is on less acid and/or light, sandy soils where fixation is low.

It is obviously very expensive to build up soil fertility to such high levels that response to extra fertilizer will never be obtained. This system (fertilizing the soil) is commonly used by market growers, home vegetable gardeners, and by nurserymen, but it has usually proven economical only under the intensive cultural procedures followed by these operators.

Practically all field crops and most of the vegetables which are grown for commercial processing are grown under a less intensive system where fertilizer is specifically applied for each crop according to the requirements of that particular crop.

In any event, it is important to test the soil to determine its fertility and lime status. It is particularly important to test for pH or acidity. Where a higher pH is needed, lime should be thoroughly mixed with the soil for most effective response, except in those limited cases where an overall increase in soil pH is not desired. In these situations a localized band of lime may be applied with the seed.

Any discussion of crop growth and root development must include



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NEWEST METHOD IN WEED CONTROL

CULTIVATES SAFELY BETWEEN EACH PLANT

WHY RISK YOUR CROP WITH CHEMICAL WEED CONTROL?



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Write for descriptive literature and prices now.

BUDDINGH INROW WEEDER Co. Box 54 Dutton, Mich. save time, spray materials get thorough protection with



ATTACHMENTS

It's easy to convert your high pressure sprayer into an efficient, air-type unit with John Bean attachments. Modern air spraying gives you thorough, uniform crop protection and greater rate-of-work capacity with real savings in time and spray materials. For medium-to-large acreages, the Model 15-RCG sprays a swath up to 60 feet, reduces wheel rows from 50 to 75 per cent. For smaller acreages, the Model 10-RC sprays up to a 40-foot swath.

Ask your John BEAN Bealer to demonstrate!





#### PROMOTE HEALTHY **BEANS · SWEET CORN · PEAS & POTATOES** WITH S

It will improve your yield per acre by controlling weeds, and assure you full crop profits!

Used as a pre-emergence weed killer, Sinox PE serves a double purpose. It conserves soil moisture and fertilizer for the crop. It eliminates the need for costly hand weeding operation all season long ... actually lowers your cost of production. Your local dealer handles SINOX PE. Ask for it by name.



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-3 ft. x 250 ft., \$4.00 a rell, hell -3 ft. x 500 ft., \$7.50 a rell, net -3 ft. x 1,000 ft., \$15.00 a rell, net -4 ft. x 1,000 ft., \$20,00 a rell, net 'We ship same day'

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\$21,00 a roll
20 ft. wide by 100 ft. long 20 ft. wide by 100 ft. long \$40.00 a roll

6 Rolls to 9 Rolls Deduct 20% 10 Rolls or More Deduct 25%

#### Big Sample Bargain -

Big useable sample piece 10 ft. long by 3 ft. wide. Send \$1.00 eash, check or stamps for this big sample by mail, postpaid

mention of soil organic matter. The value of active organic matter in establishing and/or maintaining desirable physical and chemical properties of soils is well recognized. It should be noted that there are three common sources of organic matter available to vegetable growerscrop residues from the vegetable itself, cover crops and/or weeds, and

Organic matter increases aeration and promotes drainage of excessive water while, at the same time, it helps retain a large amount of available water in the soil. It reduces surface crusting and therefore promotes better seedling emergence.

A cover crop planted during the last cultivation or after harvest of

Readers who desire a more detailed discussion of fertilizer placement may obtain a free copy of the recommendations of National Joint Committee on Fertilizer Application entitled Methods of Applying Fertilizer from National Plant Food Institute, 1700 K Street, N.W., Washington 6, D.C. This pamphlet was prepared by a group of fertilizer research specialists and summarizes present fertilizer placement recommendations for the wide range of crops, soils, and climates found in the varied agricultural areas of the United States.

a vegetable crop will take up excess nutrients and "store" them against leaching during the winter. When turned under the next spring, these nutrients are released from the cover crop as it decays in the soil during the growing season of the following cultivated crop.

Transpiration of the cover crop removes surplus water from the soil early in the spring so that the soil can be plowed earlier than if no cover crop is present. At the same time, roots from the cover crop loosen the soil and give it desirable aggregation and structure, thus forming a better seed bed.

The preceding facts indicate the value of cover crops and soil organic matter. The practice of applying a major part or even all of the commercial fertilizer to the preceding cover crop and applying only a minor part or none at all to the cash crop following the cover crop has been very effective under the soil and climatic conditions of southern New Jersey. This practice, however, may not necessarily be desirable in other vegetable growing areas of the United States where soils and climate are different.

It should be pointed out that adding a given amount of organic matter to a sandy soil containing 1 to 1.5% organic matter (typical of coastal plain areas) would logically have a greater beneficial effect on the soil than adding the same amount of organic matter to a soil containing 3 to 4% organic matter (commonly found in upstate New York). Sandy soils have lower available water-holding capacities than soils with larger amounts of silt and clay. Thus organic matter, which has a very high available water-holding capacity, is probably more beneficial in the sandy soils than it is in heavier soils.

When any vegetable crop, such as tomatoes, is heavily fertilized and only the ripe fruit harvested, a large amount of organic matter remains in the roots, tops, and unpicked green fruit to be returned to the soil the same as in a cover crop. It is also important to remember that the nutrients in a cover crop, although in different forms, originally came from the soil or from added fertilizer. Thus the cover crop is not adding plant nutrients—it is merely conserving them.

For the most economical response to fertilizer applications, it has been demonstrated time after time that a band of fertilizer high in phosphorus should be applied relatively close to the seed or transplant. This band should probably be 1 to 2 inches to the side of the row and approximately 2 inches below the level of the seed, although the exact placement may vary depending on the crop and the soil.

The remainder of the fertilizer should be applied fairly deep so it will be in relatively moist soil when summer droughts develop. It may be broadcast before plowing so it will be plowed under, it may be placed at the bottom of the plow furrow at time of plowing, or it may be drilled in deep with a fertilizer grain drill prior to planting the crop. In any event, it is important to place the bulk of the fertilizer as deeply as possible so that it will be in moist soil from which roots can extract it.

In conclusion, it may be stated that the article, Where You Place Fertilizer Will Govern Crop Size and Quality, in the April, 1959, issue of this magazine is an excellent discussion of the principles of fertilizer placement. These principles apply equally well to both field and vegetable crops. Proper placement is relatively more important for shortseason crops than it is for long season crops, and many vegetables (peas, spinach, lettuce, snap beans, etc.) are classified as short-season crops, whereas only a few field crops fall in this category. THE END.

Construction details for Cornell University plastic panel greenhouse, and reprints of current articles on plastic greenhouses are available from AMERICAN VEGETABLE GROWER, Willoughby, Ohio, for 50 cents a set.





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#### **CUCUMBER YIELD**

(Continued from page 12)

widths of 80, 60, and 40 inches with plants spaced 18 inches apart in the row resulted in yields of 296, 390, and 568 bushels per acre respectively.

In the practice of closer spacing, some growers have gone too far. In 1959 plants were spaced so close together in some fields that in this exceptional growing season it was difficult to find the fruit because of heavy vine growth. The heavy growth also resulted in fruit breakdown. Under Michigan conditions it is perhaps most profitable to space plants 12 inches apart in rows 40 to 48 inches apart.

Use of disease-resistant varieties is a must. The average yield in 1950 was only 30 bushels per acre because of scali or spot rot. Since mosaic and scali have become severe, only dual resistant varieties such as Wisconsin SMR-12, SMR-15, SMR-18, and SMR-58 are recommended.

An intensive cucumber breeding program is being conducted by Dr. Clinton Peterson, of Michigan State University. His main objectives are to incorporate disease resistance into F<sub>1</sub> hybrid cucumbers. In addition, he has some hybrids which look promising for machine harvest.

Successful growers plant cucumbers when the soil temperature is 60° F, or above and when there is enough moisture for rapid germination. The faster the cucumbers emerge, the less chance there is for a poor stand. It is difficult for plants to make up for a poor start due to delay or uneven seed germination.

Do not plant seed deeper than 1 inch and plant only deep enough so there is sufficient moisture for germination

Any soil which is well drained and has a pH of 6.0 to 6.8 is satisfactory for cucumbers. Sands or light, sandy soils are fine if irrigated. Many of the best cucumber areas are located on light, sandy loams which would not economically produce general farm crops.

Research has shown that of all the

vegetables, cucumbers are one of the best at foraging for nutrients. On soils testing high in nutrients, small quantities of fertilizer are adequate. Errors in culture other than using insufficient fertilizer are usually more important in limiting production.

Cucumbers are easily injured by having fertilizer placed with the seed, such as is done by split-boot planters when operated at fast speeds. They are also injured if a band of fertilizer is placed under the seed.

Under Michigan conditions cucumbers have responded most to the element phosphorus. If no soil test is available, adequate nutrients are supplied if 300 to 500 pounds per acre of a 5-20-10 or 4-24-12 are applied. Use the lower rate if it is bond at least 2 inches below and 2 inches to the side of the seed.

When the soil test is known, the rate and ratio can be altered and even decreased if there is a high reserve supply of nutrients.

Supplemental applications of nitrogen have not been necessary unless the season is either cold or very wet. Foliar feeding has not paid off where the suggested initial applications of fertilizer have been applied.

The purpose of cultivation is to control weeds and to provide aeration if a hard crust has been formed. When roots are cut during cultivation, the crop is injured and the yield may be reduced. Some of the best growers do their own cultivating, because they realize the injury that can be done by a "tractor jockey."

Three cultivation instruments used next to the row have been studied. It was observed that the shovels must go too deep, 3 to 5 inches, in order to cover small weeds in the row. They do a good job only at the first cultivation. In one test they decreased the yield about 20% when used up to the time the vines tipped

The sweeps are excellent for cutting weeds off, but in order to throw soil into the row, they must be



Haif sweeps, scrapers, and shovels, left to right, used for cultivating cucumbers in three-year test.

adjusted so they go almost as deep as shovels.

The scrapers do the best job of throwing soil into the row, while going only 1 inch deep. This is because of the large edge in contact with the soil surface.

Besides higher yields and better quality fruit, irrigation also offers crop insurance during dry years. In addition, if it is dry at planting time, one irrigation will insure good "come up" and will result in efficient use of insecticides and the herbicide Alanap-3, if it is used.

Most important, perhaps, is that most of the benefits from irrigation cannot be realized unless the other cultural practices mentioned are followed.

Mexican nationals have proven in Michigan to be the best and most dependable labor for the backbreaking harvesting job. This type of labor, however, has become more difficult to obtain every year. The obvious answer is to harvest by machine.

Two harvesting machines appear most promising, one developed by Chisholm-Ryder and the other by Michigan State University. About 25 Chisholm-Ryder machines will be tested throughout the country this vear. This machine picks from both sides of the row. Oats must be planted as marker plants at time of seeding so the center of the row can be located. Care must also be taken not to turn the vines back into the row prior to harvest. After the harvest starts, the machine keeps the vines in position.

The MSU machine works only from one side of the row. The row is trained with an air-blast while cultivating. The machine itself then trains the vines while harvesting. The MSU harvester shown in photo will be modified so that it can be pulled or attached to a three-point hitch. This should reduce the total cost for a harvester unit.

Two of the major problems in machine harvesting are removing the fruit from the base of the plant and minimizing plant injury, which is difficult considering that the plants must be harvested every few days.

The backbreaking job of hand harvesting pickling cucumbers will soon be eliminated by the mechanical harvester. But there is still no machine in the foreseeable future that will replace the efficient vegetable THE END. grower.

Onion consumption in the Balkan countries is 60 to 70 pounds per person; in the U.S. it's 14 pounds per person.



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#### **GREENHOUSE CROPS**

#### California Tour

GREENHOUSE vegetable growers of Cleveland, Ohio, now know that California represents their biggest connectition.

Over the years the Cleveland greenhouse growers have held an uncontested lead in producing and marketing tomatoes out of season. Florida was once their greatest rival. But after a four-day visit in the South three years ago, they realized that Florida has its own peculiar problems and is not as great a threat as they had thought.

On their annual tour this year, 24 Cleveland area greenhouse growers with their county agent visited the southern California vegetable growing areas. Since 1958 California outdoor tomatoes have been coming to eastern markets in a steadily increasing volume. The Cleveland growers decided to investigate the source of their competition.

The California tour was made possible by the splendid co-operation between the Ohio and California agricultural extension services. Arrangements and contacts in California were handled by Extension Vegetable Crop Specialist Dr. Thomas M. Little, University of California, Davis. His 25 years of experience and knowledge of California agriculture was a big help in planning the Ohio growers' itinerary.

Orange County Farm Advisor Al Holland crammed a week's tour into one morning. Where orange groves once flourished, housing developments are now taking the best land out of production. This is also true of vegetable farms planted to tomatoes, peppers, asparagus, celery, lettuce, and spinach.

In the Chula Vista district of San Diego County the tomato crop was of special interest. It was not necessary for Farm Advisor Bernarr Hall to remind Cleveland growers that tomatoes grown under hot caps and plastic might beat greenhouse crops to eastern markets.

Crossing the mountains to Imperial County, the Cleveland tourists found that Farm Advisor James Breece dealt with a vastly different type of agriculture. They learned that the killing heat waves in late spring in Imperial Valley would prevent any threat from that source to their greenhouse market.

The valley is below sea level and the salt content of the soil is high. Rainfall is about 2 inches per year. All of the agriculture in the valley



Clarke Martin and Glen Horton, Cleveland area growers, examine tomatoes under hot caps.



Cleveland growers saw this pepper planting under paper protection in the Coachello Valley.



Imperial Valley tomatoes grow under brush and strips of manila paper slanted to the south.

depends on water supplied from the All-American Canal, a vital link of the Colorado River to this otherwise arid valley. Diversion canals bisect 470,000 acres in much the same manner as in Holland.

A similar situation exists, the growers found, in Coachella Valley where H. F. Van Maren is Riverside County farm advisor. Fertile fields of vegetables, grape vineyards, date and grapefruit groves make this southern California agricultural area one of the country's richest.

First impressions of California

Address

agriculture might indicate that the Cleveland greenhouse vegetable industry days are numbered. But this is not the case when you consider the many problems with which California vegetable growers have to contend. Leading the list is water. The growers depend entirely on irrigation. High soil salt concentration is a big problem. Curly top disease is a threat to the tomato crop.

Cleveland area growers could sympathize with growers in the valley experiencing decline in market prices and with those whose fields might be left unharvested. Farm Advisor Van Maren summed up his growers' marketing philosophy: "All vegetable production is based on earliness. When the seasons are uniform throughout the competitive growing areas, business can be bad."

—Fred K. Buscher, Cuyahoga County (Ohio) Agricultural Agent.

#### AIR-BLAST SPRAYING

(Continued from page 9)

There are, today, many manufacturers and designs of these machines. Unfortunately, as in the developmental stage of any machine, not all applicators are equally efficient. The lack of blower capacity air movement is the most common defect of these machines. Air velocity is substituted for volume of delivery. Another shortcoming is the tendency, on the part of some manufacturers, to recommend a wider swath than the machine is capable of covering adequately under adverse conditions.

The breakthrough in Pennsylvania occurred in 1956 when a serious outbreak of late blight occurred on both tomatoes and potatoes. Growers observed that those who used these machines experienced no more or, in some cases, less damage from the disease than those who used conventional methods of control.

Our experience in Nebraska was also favorable. Potatoes and tomatoes dusted by airplane in the Platte River Valley were seriously infected with late blight in 1958. Tomatoes sprayed with the concentrate mist blower were free from disease. High winds, which are a natural phenomenon on the Great Plains, frequently necessitated evening and early morning applications when the air velocity was lower. Nevertheless, we were able to remain on schedule because of the significantly greater area covered by this method as compared to conventional spraying.

In Texas, our problems were similar. However, good results were obtained on all vegetable crops.

The question frequently asked is, "Why change to this type of applicator when the results are not significantly better than with the conven(Continued on page 43)

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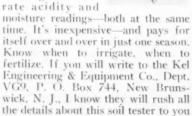
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of the various colors on the growth of the plants and also on the behavior characteristics of certain species of insects. The test is to be carried on for three to five years so that complete and exhaustive deductions can be made. If you will write to Don Leach, Butler Manufacturing Co., 7400 East 13th St., Kansas City 26, Mo., he can send you full information about the plastic panels and give you periodic reports on the color test. We, too, are going to keep an eye on this one.

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abrasive insecticides because the dust bypasses the fan. Growers in California and Florida and in between are really enthusiastic about this new lightweight duster. J. Waldron Scott, Powerpak Equipment Company, P. O. Box 773, Vista, Calif., can tell you all about them.

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Granular chemicals are becoming more and more important because of the residual factor which means longer and more positive control. A new line of granular chemical applicators for soil insect and weed control has been introduced. The new models include an improved rate-control metering mechanism, a new mounting



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#### AIR-BLAST SPRAYING

(Continued from page 41)

tional sprayer?" The answer lies in the following factors:

1) A 75% saving in water. Instead of applying 150 gallons per acre at each application with the conventional sprayer, only 37½ gallons are needed—a saving of approximately 600 gallons of water per acre for a normal spray program.

2) Saving in labor and time. Growers report that they can spray up to three times as many acres per day with 50% less labor.

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5) Fields can be covered more rapidly. This allows growers to cover their fields more frequently during rainy seasons when serious disease

This system of disease and insect control has many advantages. There are also certain disadvantages: Adverse effects of strong air currents disturbing the uniform flow of material over the entire swath pattern; high initial cost of equipment; and lack of uniformity in deposit of spray material over each row. The End.



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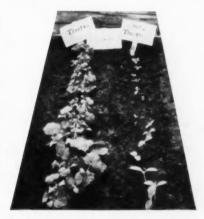
## Research discovers seed treatment for better, more profitable crops

"In many trials the proof of the spectacular results of Power-Pak treatment is reflected in increases of up to 100% in germination and stands," reports Dr. Stuart Smith, Director of Research, Seed Research Specialists, Inc., at the laboratories in Ames, Iowa.

"In addition the fast, vigorous growth from Power-Pak treated seeds provides yields even under adverse conditions where other seeds with the standard seed treatment failed."

At the southern trial grounds in Homestead, Florida, Dr. Smith said, seed treated with Power-Pak showed good germination and emergence despite heavy rains and cold temperatures this past winter.

"Our plots were treated with this



Spectacular results of seeds treated with Power-Pak, developed in the research laboratories of Seed Research Specialists, Inc., are graphically illustrated here. Note the heavy growth in the cucumber plants (left) in the row in which seeds were treated with Power-Pak, and the weak row of seedlings in which this treatment was withheld. exclusive formula while others in the area were not," Dr. Smith said. "Stands on Seed Research Specialists sweet corn, for example, ranged from satisfactory to perfect, while some of the other plots gave less than half a stand. I have never witnessed such a striking advantage for seeds treated with Power-Pak."

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#### Vegetable Disease Control—1970 Style

ARDEN F. SHERF, Cornell University's discerning plant disease specialist, foresees an easier day coming in vegetable disease control. He foreeasts that within 10 years, the vegetable grower will be using radically new methods of handling vegetable diseases

Beset with blights, wilts, scab, yellows, and mildew, the vegetable grower no doubt has a "show me" attitude. Printed below is Sherf's forecast prepared exclusively for AMERICAN VEGETABLE GROWER, We feel sure you will be impressed by the facts on which it is based. This isn't science fiction, it's just around the corner for you and your neighbor.

In the 1970's we will see better vegetable varieties with high resistance or immunity to diseases combined with high eating quality and attractive appearance. The world bank of vegetable germ plasm with disease resistant genes has been barely tapped. The continuing efforts of plant breeders, pathologists, and entomologists will bring forth well adapted varieties with resistance to our most troublesome pests.

Late blight of potato and tomato. verticillium and fusarium wilt of tomato, bacterial blight of bean, cabbage yellows, scab and mosaic of cucumber, lettuce and carrot vellows. are just a few diseases that may be greatly reduced when the new varieties become available.

Systemic fungicides-Most of the chemicals used in 1970 to control fungus, bacterial, and virus diseases of vegetables will act systemically. This will remove the need for repeated applications during the growth period and will also mean that 15 to 20 gallous of liquid will replace the 100 to 150 gallons now required for total coverage. Partial coverage of a leaf will allow sufficient chemical to be taken up and transported in the plant sap to the roots, stems, and other leaves to provide protection.

Perhaps soaking the seeds in the chemical before planting will get enough of the chemical into the young plant to protect it against disease until partially grown, when a final spray could be put on.

All purpose concentrates-Fungicide-insecticide chemicals will be combined into a single concentrated mixture for use on a single crop. For example, an 8-ounce capsule of chemical A is all that will be needed for protection against diseases and insects bothering cucurbit crops whereas one of chemical B will be required on tomatoes, potatoes, and other vegetables. Simplification of chemical recommendations is certain to come.

Soil chemical treatments-Multipurpose chemicals will be widely and easily used in 1970 for control of weed seeds, soil insects, and soil-borne disease organisms. Chemicals such as Vapam, VPM, and Mylone are already available and are finding limited usage. New formulations and application techniques will make similar chemicals more economical and efficient to use. The increasing adoption of raised bed culture will facilitate the use of such chemicals as preplanting or post-planting treatments.

Newly developed planting equipment and appropriate chemicals will enable a grower to economically treat a furrow or band five to seven days before planting to kill weeds, insects, and fungi in the soil and then later to deliver certain chemicals in the furrow with the seed. This will provide later protection to the seedlings. This day is nearly here now and we may not need to wait for 1970 to roll around before this method can be used.

New methods and equipment for fungicide application-No longer will vegetable growers need to repeatedly spray with 100 to 200 gallons of fungicide solution per acre, even on crops with heavy foliage. Not only will low gallonage equipment be satisfactory for systemic chemicals, but

new methods of applying fungicides and insecticides will be common.

These include the use of irrigation water as a carrier, either in the furrow or overhead, and the extensive use of aircraft. Since the systemic or internal fungicides will be absorbed through the root system and distributed throughout the plant, the surface irrigation or sprinkler method will distribute the chemicals within reach of the plant roots.

Plant disease forecasting-A new and rapidly expanding field of knowledge in plant disease forecasting will

#### QUOTE-OF-THE-MONTH

There is no unbelief; Whoever plants a seed beneath the sod And waits to see it push away the clod, He trusts in God!

-Lizzie York Case

by 1970 permit the accurate prediction of threats of forthcoming epidemics. The correlation of long range temperature, rainfall, and relative humidity information with certain micro-climatic data, known to be required for disease epidemics to occur, will permit sporadic use of fungi-

Today we use a spray schedule because a disease might occur. In 1970 we may need to apply them only when known epidemic diseases pose a threat and are predicted to occur. This system is now in partial operation in certain areas of the U.S. for late blight of potato and tomato, blue mold of tobacco, and downy mildew of cucumbers and lima beans.

In summary, great changes in methods of controlling vegetable diseases will occur in the next 10 years. Only by keeping up-to-date and adopting many of these new practices will the grower of 1970 be financially successful. Better yields of high quality produce will be attainable with less effort and less cost per crop unit harvested. This achievement will be derived through the joint efforts of commercial, state, and federal research and extension men.

## VEGETABLE CONVENTION



"Hi Folks . . . what's old?"

#### Coming Next Month

Irrigation Issue

· Why Are Nematodes Growing in Impor-

22 Reasons for Irrigating Wisconsin's Experience with Water Rights How to Fertilize Through Your Irriga-



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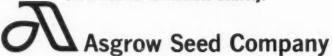


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